

BSA Family Program Frequently Asked Questions

Q: What is the early adopter program?

A: The early adopter program was introduced after overwhelming demand from, chartered partners, Cub Scout pack leaders, and local councils that are already prepared to provide the Cub Scout program to girls. Although our programs will officially launch to welcome both boys and girls in Cub Scouting during the 2018-19 program year, the soft launch for early adopters will allow eligible packs in participating councils to officially register girls (K-4) in Cub Scouts as early as January 15.

Q: Which packs are eligible to participate?

A: If a council opts in to the early adopter program, it will identify chartered partners with Cub Scout packs that are in good standing and have the capacity to participate. The local council will then send those chartered partners an invitation to participate. The early adopter program is designed for chartered partners with Cub Scout packs that are in good standing, can create a compressed program calendar to ensure all Cub Scouts have the opportunity to earn their rank and have the capacity to develop a membership plan to take on new youth during this time of year.

Q: What are the early adopter program requirements?

A: For every pack to commit and utilize the Family Program Commitment Form. Please refer to the Family Program Commitment form in your packet.

Q: Will the early adopter program welcome Webelos that would need to crossover in 2018?

A: No. The early adopter program will only allow participating units to register girls (K-4) to avoid the situation where a girl does not have a troop to crossover into after advancement.

Q: What if my pack is not interested in participating in Family Scouting?

A: Every chartered partner chooses which Scouting programs to utilize for their community, and each unit should work with their chartered partner to discuss which approach is best for the youth and families they seek to serve. If a unit wants to remain an all-boy pack with all-boy dens, that decision is entirely welcome.

Q: Will girls that register in the early adopter program need to register again later in the year?

A: Those who register in the Spring of 2018 are charged the prorated membership fee based on their unit's next recharter. For example, if a new Cub Scout registers in February and that pack

has a December recharter, then that Cub Scout registration fee will be for 11 months and they will need to re-register with the pack along with the other members of the pack in December.

Q: How should we approach a chartered partner that does not want to offer Family Scouting? Should we start a separate pack nearby?

A: Chartered partners can choose which programs to offer and whether they want to offer Family Scouting or remain focused on all-boy programs. If the chartered partner has made a well-informed decision to focus on all-boy programs, we recommend working with your district or council membership teams to identify new unit development opportunities. You may contact Jose Rodriguez, Field Director, at 480-678-3177/jose.rodriguez@scouting.org

Q: What are the council's responsibilities in offering programs to girls?

A: The responsibility of the council does not change with the invitation to girls to join our programs. Just as before, a council will be expected to offer uphold membership and program standards, market analysis, support units, seek opportunities for new units, and developing and training leaders to offer a quality program.

Q: Will there be a process to notify the council, district and/or unit if a girl is interested in joining?

A: The BeAScout location tool has been updated to create a visual icon to indicate which packs are All Boy, Family, and All Girl. The lead generation system will be the same for boys and girls. All leads go into the Invitation Manager, and all applications go into the Application Manager. Council and district personnel can drill down to view lead details. For the early adopter program, dashboards will not be changed to track gender.

Q: What is the application process to register girls?

A: The online registration system will be ready to accept girl applications for units that have been identified as eligible by their councils and chartered partners. Paper applications are also acceptable.

Q: How will BeAScout help identify which units are welcoming girls?

A: The unit pin will have an indicator if the unit is accepting girls. This flag on the pin will be set in the organization manager settings where the COR or IH agrees that the unit can invite girls to join in a family pack. In turn, the distinction will be depicted on BeAScout.

Q: Can a unit that cannot meet the four-girl minimum offer the lone Scout program?

A: The lone Scout program is not being offered as a part of the early adopter soft launch. After the official roll out, councils will determine the viability of the lone Scout program, just as they do now with boys.

Q: Can a unit that cannot meet the four-girl minimum combine ages?

A: The early adopter program is designed for packs that have the ability to provide a quality program AND have the capacity to work with the chartered partner and district leadership to develop a membership plan to invite girls to join the pack. Working as a team, the pack leadership, chartered partner and district leadership develop a membership plan that creates awareness in the community that the pack is now welcoming girls into Cub Scouting. With the right leadership and proper membership plan, we don't anticipate the four-girl minimum being a challenge for early adopter packs. We want to ensure that those who participate as early adopters have a full Cub Scouting experience, and part of that is being part of a den with other Cub Scouts who are working together towards the same rank.

In the rare occasion that the minimum requirement of four girls to form a single den cannot be fulfilled, packs will continue to have the option to combine grade levels to form a den as long they are working on their respective ranks. For example, if you have two third-grade girls and two fourth-grade girls, you may combine into a single den as long as they are working on their Bear and Webelos, respectively.

Program and Materials

Q: Will the program change to accommodate girls joining Cub Scouts?

A: No, the activities that Cub Scouts do and the advancement requirements will not change; they will be the same as the current requirements.

Q: Will there be separate handbooks for boys and girls?

A: No. The advancement program will be the same for all Scouts.

Q: Will there be a separate uniform for girls?

A: Participants in the early adopter program agree to use all currently existing materials, including the current Cub Scout uniforms and handbooks.

All uniforms continue to be reviewed and adjusted to meet participant needs. While the fit and styling may be a bit different, the uniforms will remain fundamentally the same.

Q: Will the advancement requirements or award names be changed?

A: Requirements for Adventure Trails in Cub Scouting will not change. Two Arrow of Light Adventure Trails will be renamed: Outdoorsman will become Outdoor Adventurer and Sportsman will simply become Sports.

Leaders and Training

Q: Given that the decision to offer Family Scouting sits with the chartered partner, are councils expected to document their chartered partner decisions or rely on what is communicated by unit leadership?

A: For the early adopter program, councils have been provided with communications tools and email templates to help facilitate communication between the council and chartered partners to ensure that there is alignment between the chartered partner and the potential participating unit. The council can use the same resources to engage chartered partners in broader discussions about offering Family Scouting beyond the early adopter program to ensure that we do everything we can to foster and grow the important relationships with chartered partners.

Q: What structures at the council and district level do you recommend to support Family Scouting? Should we add a "Family Scouting Champion"?

A: We don't see a need to add to the current district or council structure, especially considering that New Member Coordinators are already welcoming new families into our units. Membership teams on both levels should develop plans as to what marketing and recruitment plans will work best for each pack.

Q: What new or updated training will be available for leaders?

A: Training resources such as Den Leader and Cubmaster training are being updated to align with advancement changes that were made prior to welcoming girls into Cub Scouting. In addition, the images for the training will reflect the diverse markets we seek to serve.

Youth Protection

Q: What changes are anticipated for YPT as we welcome girls to packs?

A: One of the requirements to be in the early adopter program is that packs that participate must have all leaders that work with youth trained in their position specific and be current in Youth Protection training prior to delivering the program. Pack and den leaders agree to uphold membership policies and the structure of all-boy dens and all-girl dens.

In Cub Scouting, overnight and outdoor activities are designed for the whole family. Parents attend overnight activities with their child. Male and female adult leaders must be present for all overnight Cub Scouting trips and outings, even those including parent and child, unless all youth and adults are the same gender. Both male and female adult leaders must be 21 years of age or older and currently Youth Protection trained, and one must be a registered member of the BSA. A parent may assist their child in matters of health and safety, as long as it does not

infringe upon the privacy of others. Beyond these requirements, the BSA will be introducing an updated, module-oriented YPT program for leaders and parents in January.

Q: Are female leaders required for packs that will include girl dens?

A: Similar to policies that apply to Venturing, adult female supervision will be required for Cub Scouting activities that involve female Cub Scouts. This supervision can be a parent or legal guardian of a Cub Scout who is Youth Protection-trained, but does not need to be a registered leader.

Q: Does this mean that a pack will have to bring at least four leaders on any activity to abide by two-deep leadership policies?

A: No. If working with an all-girl den or pack, at least one of the leaders should be female or a Youth Protection-trained adult female must be present, so if you have an all-girl den that has two leaders who are male, then an adult female must be present.

Camping

Q: What facility changes will be made at camps?

A: Current requirements for male and female adult facilities, as well as male and female youth facilities still apply.

In Cub Scouting overnight and outdoor activities are designed for the whole family. Parents attend overnight activities with their child. Our current tenting policies remains in effect and those are:

- No adult may share a tent with the opposite sex unless he or she is that adult's spouse.
- No youth may share a tent with an adult or person of the opposite sex other than a family member or guardian.
- Assigning youth members more than two years apart in age to sleep in the same tent should be avoided unless the youth are relatives.

Whenever possible, separate shower and bathroom facilities should be provided for male adult and female adults, and male youth and female youth. If separate facilities are not available, separate shower times must be scheduled and clearly posted.

Q: What will happen at Day Camp if we only have a few girls and they are not of the same rank?

A: Maintaining the all-boy den and all-girl den is an overall Cub Scout program requirement that extends into all activities; however, Day Camps can offer joint activities that are available to multiple dens.

Q: What updates to youth protection will be implemented to ensure the safety of boys and girls?

A: Youth protection and safety is paramount in all of the BSA's programs. We invest resources and time to continuously strengthen our youth-protection program. At the Cub Scout level, the program is already designed for the family, and we've had sisters of Cub Scouts participating in activities for several years. As we deliver the program for older girls, we will be evaluating any changes needed to ensure the safety of all youth.

Q: What camp opportunities are available for the 2018 summer timeline?

A: Council Cub Scouts Day Camp and our Cub Scouts Family Resident Camp will be available for our 2018 camp season. Please refer to the flyers in your handouts.